

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-31 (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis for insertion within a body passage comprising:

a first section including a resiliently deformable first annular element and a first tubular graft that is less resilient than said first annular element, said first tubular graft having a pair of free ends and an internal surface, said first annular element attached ~~connected~~ to one of said free ends;

a second section axially aligned with said first section, said second section including a resiliently deformable second annular element and a second tubular graft, said second tubular graft, said second annular element of said second section adapted to communicate with said first tubular graft of said first section, said second tubular graft having one end which defines a single passage and an opposite end which defines a pair of bifurcated passages which communicate with said single passage; and resiliently engage an internal surface of said first tubular graft of said first section so as to adjustably fix the second section within the first tubular graft;

~~a pair of relatively rigid elements defining a pair of independent passages into said free end of said second prosthesis section~~ a third prosthesis section including a pair of annular resilient deformable annular elements and a third tubular graft, said third tubular graft having a pair of free ends and an internal surface, one of said annular elements attached to one of free ends of said third tubular graft, the other said annular elements attached to the other of free ends of said third tubular graft, said third graft connected to one of said pair of bifurcated passages of said second tubular graft, one of said annular elements adapted to engage the interior of said second prosthesis section;
and

~~a third and fourth prosthesis section telescopically engaging said relatively rigid elements on said free end of said second prosthesis section, each said third and fourth prosthesis sections including a pair of annular resilient deformable ~~spring~~ annular~~

elements and a fourth tubular graft, said fourth tubular graft having a pair of free ends and an internal surface, of one of said annular ~~said spring~~ elements attached to one of the free ends of said fourth tubular graft, at least the other of said annular elements attached to the other of free ends of said fourth graft, said fourth graft connected to the other of said pair of bifurcated passages of said second tubular graft, one of said ~~spring~~ annular elements adapted to engage the interior of said second prosthesis section.

Claims 33-64 (Canceled)

65. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis comprising:
a tubular graft having a pair of free ends and a first diameter; and
a ring comprising ~~a bundle of radially overlapping~~ windings formed of a strand of resilient wire, said windings connected together in a bundle to be closely associated, the windings wrapped one over the other and one around the other, and when undeformed the diameter of said bundle of windings ~~defines~~ corresponds with the diameter of said ring, the undeformed diameter of said ring greater than the first diameter of the tubular graft, said ring secured to said graft adjacent one of said free ends.

66. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis comprising:
a tubular graft having a pair of free ends; and
an annular element comprising a bundle of radially overlapping windings formed of a single strand of resilient wire, said windings connected together, the diameter of said bundle of windings ~~defining~~ corresponding with the diameter of said annular element, said windings adapted to be concentric with said tubular graft and located adjacent one of said free ends.

67. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis comprising:
a tubular graft having a pair of free ends, and
a ring located adjacent one of said free ends, said ring comprising ~~a bundle of concentric, radially overlapping~~ windings formed of a strand of resilient wire, the

windings wound one over the other to form coils that are connected together in a compact bundle, the diameter of said bundle of windings defining corresponding with the diameter of said ring, said windings connected together and coaxial with said tubular graft.

68. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 67 wherein the minimum bending diameter of said ring is less than that of a solid ring of the same dimensions.

69. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 65 wherein a portion of said tubular graft proximate said ring has a second diameter.

70. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis for being positioned in a blood vessel comprising:

a graft; and

an annular resilient element attached to said graft, said element folded along a diametric axis into a C-shaped configuration, said graft ~~is arranged to extend~~ along a length of a first blood vessel, ~~[[and]]~~ a part of said graft ~~is positioned~~ positionable past a point of an intersection of said first blood vessel and a second blood vessel so as not to occlude an opening to permit communication of said intersection.

71. (Currently Amended) The prosthesis of claims 70 wherein a diameter of said graft is sized to be approximately the same as a diameter of ~~the~~ a given blood vessel, ~~in which said prosthesis is positioned.~~

72. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claims 70 wherein said element has an undeformed diameter greater than the diameter of said graft.

73. (Currently Amended) The prosthesis of claims 70 wherein an undeformed diameter of said element is sized to be greater than a diameter of ~~the~~ a given blood vessel, ~~in which said prosthesis is positioned.~~

74. (Currently Amended) The prosthesis of claims 70 wherein said element ~~comprising~~ comprises a bundle of concentric, radially overlapping windings formed of a strand of resilient wire.

75. (Previously Presented) A prosthesis for being positioned in a blood vessel comprising:

an annular resilient element having a diametric axis, said element foldable along said diametric axis into a C-shaped configuration overall, said C-shaped element to be situated in said blood vessel with an arcuate portion of said C-shaped element engaged with said blood vessel; and

a graft, said element attached to an end of said graft.

76. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 75 wherein said graft is adapted to extend along a length of a first blood vessel and a part of said graft is positionable past a point of an intersection of said first blood vessel and a second blood vessel so as not to occlude an opening to permit communication of said intersection.

77. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claims 75 wherein a diameter of said graft is approximately the same as a diameter of the blood vessel, in which said prosthesis is to be positioned.

78. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claims 75 wherein the unfolded diameter of said element is greater than the diameter of said graft.

79. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claims 75 wherein the unfolded diameter of said element is greater than a diameter of the blood vessel, in which said prosthesis is to be positioned.

80. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claims 75 wherein said element comprises a bundle of concentric, radially overlapping windings formed of a strand of resilient wire.

81. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis for being positioned in a blood vessel comprising:

a graft; and

an annular resilient element attached to said graft, said graft ~~[[is]]~~ adapted to be positioned within a first blood vessel proximate to a second blood vessel, a part of said graft ~~extends to extend~~ extend past an intersection of said first blood vessel and said second blood vessel so as not to occlude an opening to permit ~~communication~~ communication of said intersection, ~~neither only a part of both said graft nor and said annular element has to~~ contact with a portion of said first blood vessel, ~~which locates~~ located past said second blood vessel.